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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL I B
EXTERNAL RELATIONS: SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN, MIDDLE AND NEAR EAST, LATIN AMERICA, SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND NORTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

South-East Asia

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Brussels, 17 January, 1996

INDONESIA: EAST TIMOR

SPEAKING NOTE

The Commission and the Member States have repeatedly brought to the attention of the Government of Indonesia their condemnation of unjustifiable actions by the Indonesian security forces, as from the incident at Dili in November, 1991; as well as their support for fair trials and humane treatment for those arrested; proper acces by international organisations; and for a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the East Timor issue, respecting the principles of the UN Charter, and taking into account the need to defend human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as full respect for the legitimate interests and aspirations of the population of East Timor.

On July 18, 1994, the Union again reaffirmed the need for the observance of human rights, particularly as regards the freedom of worship and free access to East Timor for international organisations. The question of respect for human rights in general was also stressed at the EU/ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Karlsruhe in September, 1994.

Further incidents, particularly on the occasion of demonstrations and arrests in East Timor last October, and the entry into the Dutch and Russian embassies on 7 December of groups from East Timor, indicate that a situation of tension remains in East Timor[1].

The Commission supports the ongoing bilateral discussions between Portugal and Indonesia in the UN context, and aligns itself to the principles of the agreement made between Portugal and Indonesia in Geneva on 9 January, 1995. as well as the meeting at Burg Schlaining, Austria on 3-5 June, 1995. We sincerely hope that these ongoing discussions, supported by the European Union, will help to result in a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the East Timor issue.

[1]This is confirmed by the report of political counsellors at the Spanish and German embassies in Jakarta, who visited ET on 20-24 November, 1995: increased military presence, intimidation, particularly of youth, bad economic situation and "feeling of no future".

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No EU Member State has suspended aid to Indonesia. To do this, would only diminish what influence we could have with the Indonesian government[2]. The bulk of EC assistance is attributed to conservation and sustainable management of the tropical forest, which targets the poorer rural populations and is of global concern.

The question of a visit to East Timor by a delegation of the European Parliament was raised at a meeting of the European Parliament Development and Cooperation Committee on 23 November, 1995, attended by the Head of the Indonesian mission to the EC and the governor of East Timor.
The Commission strongly supports this initiative, and wishes it every success.

The Commission , together with the Member States, has therefore repeatedly condemned unjustifiable actions, asked for fair treatment for and access to those arrested; and supports the ongoing dialogue, including East Timorese representatives.
In this respect, the Commission and the Member States continue to put pressure on the government of Indonesia to improve its overall human rights record. For example, representations were made by the Presidency to the Indonesian government earlier this month concerning the imprisonment of two journalists.

We shall continue, in liaison with the Member States as represented by the Presidency, to use our good offices in this sense, with a view to finding a just and internationally acceptable solution, fully respecting the just and legitimate interests of the population of East Timor.

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[2] Total EU pledge at last CGI (Paris, June 95) was around $670 mio; we give around 30-35 MECU per year- less than 5% of EU aid to Indonesia; and less than 1% of overall aid ($5.4bn pledged for 1995-6).

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL IB
EXTERNAL RELATIONS: Southern Mediterranean, Middle and Near East, Latin America, South and South-East Asia and North-South Cooperation

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Brussels, 26/1/96
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MESSAGE

In reply to your note of 7th December 1995 to Mr. Cloos, enclosing a statement on East Timor, please find enclosed a copy of the latest speaking note on this subject.

You are authorised to transmit a Portuguese version of this note to the authors of the above mentioned statement.

G. MORGAN
Head of Unit

cc R. Arndell.

Documentação enviada pelo Francisco Sanfield Cabral "Com um abraço!" Acho que tem interesse. Já agradeci.

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